

MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2017

BUDGET

Re-funding Bond Ordinance # 1632-17

This ordinance was introduced at the October 5th regular council meeting. The council motion to provide for the funding of a \$2,024,753 emergency appropriation for tax appeals in by and for the Township passed on first reading. The ordinance also appropriates the additional sum of \$75,247 to pay the cost thereof and to authorize the issuance of \$2,100,000 of bonds or notes to finance the funding of said emergency appropriation and additional appropriations.

Appearance Before the New Jersey Local Finance Board

On Wednesday, October 11th, Township Auditor Steve Wielkatz, Bond Counsel Steve Rogut, Chief Financial Officer Raymond Carnivale and I appeared before the N.J. Local Finance Board in Trenton. The Township made an application to the Board requesting to bond for the payment of our commercial tax appeals over a six year period. I'm happy to say that our application was approved. Our Township professionals did a great job presenting the application.

2018 Budget Hearings

Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico and I have scheduled budget hearings with department heads during the month of December. The department heads were instructed to complete budget worksheets for their projected fiscal requirements for 2018. Each department was asked not to exceed the state required spending cap for budget appropriations.

GRANTS

Grant Opportunities

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Local Freight Impact

Our grant writer issued a grant alert for the NJDOT Local Freight Impact grant. This grant provides funds for the advancement of freight projects and movement of large truck traffic that emphasizes and enhances safety, renews aging infrastructure, promotes economic development and supports new transportation opportunities. Part of this opportunity is to repair and/or repave roads damaged by heavy truck traffic on their way to a warehouse or port. This grant was discussed during our Township Council work session on the October 3rd and a decision was made to request funding for Mayhill Street between Market Street and the Susquehanna and Western Railway. The application is due December 19th.

Pending Grants

Holiday Drive Sober Campaign

Last month, our grant writer issued a grant alert for the latest Drive Sober Campaign. It is for \$5,500 to pay for 100 hours of enforcement overtime by the Police Department. The application was submitted on October 24th. Announcement of an award is pending.

Firehouse Subs

The Township initiated a Firehouse Subs application for the Ambulance Corps. Our grant writer completed and submitted the Firehouse Subs application on September 7th for an automatic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) unit costing \$15,003.71. Announcement of an award is pending. A Firehouse Subs application, submitted for the Fire Department on September 5th requesting \$11,250.15 for three automated external defibrillator (AED) units was denied, but we will be re-applying before the next deadline of November 30th.

State Body Armor Grant Program

The 2017 State Body Armor grant application was submitted by Police Chief Robert Kugler. The Police Department qualifies for and receives funds annually from this program.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring

Our grant writer, with assistance of our Police Chief Robert Kugler, submitted a COPS Office grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice. A funding program is available, which provides for \$125,000 per newly hired police officer over a three year period. The COPS hiring application through grants.gov was submitted on July 7th for one new officer. Announcement of awards are pending.

Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID)

Funding for the Saddle Brook Angels with a ROID application for \$10,000 is still pending. The Angels is a program to help enrich and promote an active lifestyle for children with special needs by providing an opportunity for them to partake in a safe, noncompetitive, organized environment

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Youth Group

Group members participated in the Senior Halloween Party on Tuesday, October 24th, the Halloween Decorating Contest on Thursday, October 26th and the Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 28th. Thank you to all the Group members who helped out during these events.

Community Partnership Committee (CPC) Meeting – Monday, October 23rd

CPC Coordinator Howard Weinberg is continuing to work with the students of the Saddle Brook High / Middle School Community Partnership Club to create a video infomercial. The CPC Food Drive for the Food Pantry at the First Reformed Church is ongoing. There was a collection at the Township Trunk or Treat and there will also be one at our Annual Holiday Party, which will take place on Friday, November 24th after our Tree Lighting Ceremony. The next meeting is Monday, November 27th at 7:00PM at the Senior Center.

Access for All Meeting

The Access for All Committee continues to address the needs for persons with disabilities in our community. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00PM at the Senior Center.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Halloween Decorating Contest – Thursday October 26th

The Mayor's Youth Group and I had a great time touring the town to judge our Halloween Decorating Contest. Our group, driven by Senior Center Bus Driver Howard Rofofsky, stopped to view all the homes of residents who registered for the contest. I want to thank Christine Genuario and Frank Barrale for joining us on the tour and assisting. Our participating residents did an awesome job decorating their homes! They put a great deal of imaginative and creative effort into making their homes scary and spooky for Halloween. The top three participants received awards at our Township Council meeting on November 2nd.

Senior Halloween Party – Tuesday, October 24th

The Saddle Brook seniors had a great time at their annual Halloween party at the VFW. Many dressed in costume and it was a nice night of fun, music, dancing, good food and treats. The night also included a costume contest with gifts and prizes for the winners. It was a great way to welcome in the fall season and get ready for a happy, spooky Halloween! Council President D'Arminio, Councilwoman Mazzer, Councilman Gieriek, Business Administrator Lo Dico and I were in attendance.

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 28th

The Township Council and I want to thank all who attended and volunteered at the Halloween Trunk or Treat. The great weather and fun-filled afternoon brought out a large group of trunk or treaters dressed in amazing costumes. We want to commend the Project and Activities Committee, Mayor's Youth Group and my secretary Christine Genuario for all their assistance in planning and organizing the event. Special thanks to Committee Chairwoman Shannon Russell Accomando and Councilman Todd Accomando for taking the lead role and working hard to make the event a great success and memorable occasion. Also to Saddle Brook Walmart for donating a large portion of the candy that was distributed. It was nice to see so many families participating and enjoying themselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Tree Lighting & Party – Friday, November 24th

The Holiday Tree Lighting will be held Friday, November 24th at Town Hall beginning at 6PM. There will be a holiday party afterwards at the Saddle Brook High School gymnasium with lots of fun and games for all. There will be refreshments, super heroes and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) FY 2018 Municipal Aid Application

This application was submitted by the Township Engineer and Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico received confirmation from the DOT that they received the application.

Resurfacing of Streets

Kenny Place

This project was awarded to JA Alexander, Inc. Contracts have been executed and a preconstruction meeting was held on October 13th. Every attempt will be made to complete this project this year, weather permitting.

President Street

This was awarded to AA Berms, LLC and contracts have been executed. A preconstruction meeting was held on October 10th. Notice to proceed was issued on October 18th and work should commence shortly.

Claremont Ave

The Township Engineer has finishing up the design, however this project will be pushed back to March 2018.

Fifth Street

Bids were received on October 5th and the apparent low bidder was 4 Clean Up of North Bergen, NJ. Every attempt will be made to have this work completed this year, however, it may have to be postponed until early spring next year.

Veterans Field Concession Building

The contractor is working and making significant progress. The roof was recently installed and exterior of the building is nearing completion.

Municipal Building Generator

The generator has been ordered and permits were obtained. Construction has begun, however, our Construction Code Official Anthony Ambrogio has requested bollards around the generator, which will now be included in the project. The generator should be delivered in the second week of November.

OTHER

Flood Meeting

On Wednesday, September 20th Council President Karen D'Arminio, Councilman David Gierek and I met with Bergen County Shared Services Coordinator Thomas Richards and representatives from neighboring communities to discuss the problem with the Saddle River flooding. The County has agreed to provide inmate labor and heavy machinery to clean debris and de-snag portions of the Saddle River identified as problem areas. Our state legislators have passed laws to relax Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations, which now allow municipalities to enter the river for the purpose of removing debris and clearing impediments. We hope to meet on a regular basis and work together to reduce flooding in our area.

Saddle Brook High / Middle School Elections

On Tuesday, October 17th, the Saddle Brook High/Middle School held elections for class officers and student council. There was also a separate voting machine where the students could cast a vote for N.J. Governor. The students used actual voting machines that were providing by the Bergen County Board of Elections. School Principal John Lawlor and Township Clerk Peter Lo Dico presided over the elections along with town residents and poll workers Marie Kenny and Ines Radman.

Karen's Kourtyard

Resident, Karen Kenny, was Franklin School's beloved nurse for 12 years. Last year, she lost her heroic battle with cancer. Karen touched the lives of many students, families and the staff at Franklin School. Early this year, Karen's family, friends and coworkers at Franklin School began a fundraising effort to build a courtyard in the rear of the school to commemorate her life. The courtyard in her honor was dedicated on Wednesday, October 18th at 3:30PM. Councilwoman Mazzer and I attended the dedication along with several Board of Education trustees, school district administrators and staff, family, friends, students and their parents. I would like to thank all who attended and those who donated to this memorial courtyard, especially Brian Anthony Landscaping for giving their time and labor to complete this beautiful project.

Saddle Brook Ranked # 10 in Star Ledger News Least Violent Towns in N.J.

http://www.nj.com/.../30_nj_towns_with_the_lowest_violent_cri...

According to the Star Ledger newspaper, violent crime in New Jersey has been decreasing over the last five years. This is in stark contrast with the rest of the country, which saw violence increase yet again in large part due to a spike in killings in some major cities, according to the FBI's most recent annual crime report. Saddle Brook was among the 31 towns with the lowest violent crime rates. We placed # 10 with a violence rate of 1.41 per 10,000 people, an overall decrease of 66.83 percent. This is another reason to be proud of our town and Police Department.